(a) whether Government are aware that there was an urgent need to institute a basic survey of the elementary stage of the school system to find out the shortcomings of the system; and

(b) if so, by when such a survey would be instituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The 7th All India School Education Survey, being conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), aims at collecting comprehensive data on census basis on every facet of school education in the country with date of reference as September 30, 2002. The survey is in its last stage of completion.

Plagiarism in Universities

4090. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that plagiarism has become a routine in Universities; and

(b) if so, what measures would be taken to eradicate this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. As per information provided by the UGC, such is not the case.

(b) Does not arise.

Scrapping of school examinations

4091. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to secure a consensus of the academic agencies for scrapping school examinations altogether and replace the same with internally administered weekly to monthly tests;

(b) whether the proposed in-house assessment of the student's skill at the school level would tend to be lax, devoid of scrupulous assessment and valuation of students' skills by an outside examiner/valuer; and

(c) in order to destress the acaoemic ambience at school level, whether Government would consider engaging voluntary counselling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) There is no proposal for scrapping of school examinations altogether. However, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) intends to introduce continuous and comprehensive evaluation more effectively in the school system.

(b) The continuous and comprehensive evaluation is intended to assess the holistic development of the child covering the cognitive, affective and the psycho motor domains of the learners in the process of learning.

(c) As per information received from the CBSE, necessary steps are being taken to implement pre examination counselling and post examination counseling to students to relieve them of the possible stress during examinations. CBSE has also advised the schools to appoint counsellors to deal with the various academic and emotional problems that the students may encounter during the learning process in the schools.

Drop-out rate

4092. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drop-out rate between 1991-92 and 2001-02 had increased only in the five States *i.e.*, Assam, Goa, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Nagaland;

(b) whether it is also a fact that drop-out rate has been increasing between 2001-02 and 2002-03 in nine States *i.e.* Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, M.P., Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa and Punjab;

(c) if so, the steps his Ministry would take to reduce the drop-out rate; and

(d) what concrete plan his Ministry has to achieve zero per cent of drop-out rate by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, in so far as Drop-out Rate for Class I-V is concerned, except that:—